

REVIVE KU-KLUX LAW

House Members Discuss Old Reconstruction Statute.

INVOLVES CONSPIRACY CASES

New Jersey Man Fears Instance May Affect Rights of Laboring Man, Defended by Mr. Shirley During Debate on Revision of Penal Code. The Section Finally Passes.

After lying in "inocuous desuetude" for more than a quarter of a century, the "Ku-Klux statute" of the United States, designed to punish persons who conspire to injure or oppress any citizen in the exercise of his constitutional rights, provoked one of the hottest sectional and labor debates on the floor of the House of Representatives, yesterday, witnessed there this session.

It was in the consideration of the codification and revision of the penal laws of the United States that this matter came up, the committee having the work in charge recommending that the statutes be continued in the code unchanged. Such was finally agreed upon.

When the provision was reached punishing conspiracy to defeat the exercise of a right guaranteed under the Constitution or the laws of the United States, Mr. Smith, of Missouri, offered an amendment, for which Mr. Hughes, of New Jersey, offered a substitute, as follows: "Provided, however, That it shall not be unlawful for two or more persons to enter into an agreement to leave or refuse to enter the employ of any person, partnership, or corporation, or to advise, persuade, or induce others to do so."

Shirley Talks an Hour.

This provoked a discussion of an hour's length, in which Mr. Shirley (Dem., Ky.) took the principal part in the face of opposition of many of his party associates. He said that he would oppose the amendment, not only for the reason that it was not germane to the paragraph, but that it had not been considered by a committee of the House; was likely to be crude and unfinished, and likely to fail of accomplishing the object desired.

Addition to Debate.

Subsequently, when the succeeding section was read, there was a slight addition to the labor debate. It contained a provision that where an overt crime was committed pursuant to the conspiracy, punishment should be inflicted in accordance with the law of the State in which the crime was committed. Thus it was pointed out that in case murder, resulted from a conspiracy by moonshiners in their efforts to evade the revenue laws, death would be the punishment inflicted for conviction upon an indictment charging conspiracy only, where the killing was committed in a State where the punishment for murder was death. Mr. De Armond (Dem., Mo.), moved to strike out the section. He asserted that the reason for retaining the provision in the law was to make members of labor unions subject to the penalty proposed, and for that purpose alone, and the committee ought to know for what it was voting when it passed upon the motion.

On Books Thirty-five Years.

The section in question had been on the statute books for thirty-five years, and no complaint had been heard from any one against its operation except possibly some moonshiners and their friends. The evident object of the proposition before the committee was to nullify the efforts of United States officials to prosecute violations of the internal revenue law, and this he protested should not be done unless a committee of the House after due investigation of the subject should so recommend.

The motion to strike out was defeated.

57 to 52.

Five sections of the bill only were considered during the session. On the last vote, on a motion to strike out one of them, the committee was sustained by a majority of 57 to 52, and Mr. Moon (Rep., Pa.), in charge of the bill, thought it best not to risk a possible adverse vote and moved that the committee rise.

This was done, and at 3:30 p. m. the House adjourned until Monday.

"Let us not be led astray by hardships in cases portrayed by gentlemen or by political agitators outside. I believe I have a proper appreciation of the rights and the hardships of the laboring man. I have never constituted myself a special champion because, without intending to reflect upon anybody, my observation has been that those who claim to hold a brief for a special person, or set of persons, are not always the true friends of the interests of those persons." (Applause.)

Wants Laws Respected.

A little later Mr. Shirley repeated his remedy for the troubles outlined by Messrs. Hughes and Smith—to repeal the law and not to authorize the disregard for the law and law breaking.

Mr. Smith, of Missouri—That's what we are trying to do now.

Mr. Shirley—No, it is not. The proposition is not to take away any right that may exist, but it is to say that if men conspire against it they shall not be punished.

Continuing along this line, Mr. Shirley said that he believed in laboring men having their rights and that he would defend them in the exercise of those rights. He had done so in the past but had never been demagogical about it; he did not believe the time had yet come in this country when special rights should be conferred upon a special class. (Applause.) Mr. Shirley was in colloquy with several of his party associates upon the attitude he assumed toward the question, and finally Mr. Sims, of Tennessee, took him to task sharply, saying that the defense of the proposed law came from the Democratic side, and all the applause from the Republican side. Mr. Shirley promptly responded that he

had no doubt Mr. Sims was willing to put him in opposition to his party on this matter, but if that gentleman would examine his record and that of his party he would find that they were wholly in accord.

Not Afraid to Speak.

"I have assumed the position taken today, not because of any request by the chairman of the committee, but because, being a member of the committee and a Representative, I thought I had a right to express my opinions upon the subject and was not afraid to do so." (Applause.)

The proposed changes in the section were defeated by a vote of 101 to 119. Mr. McCall (Rep., Mass.) called attention to the fact that the punishment proposed was out of all proportion to the offense. The preceding section, punishing conspiracy against the government, fixed punishment at only six years' imprisonment, while for conspiracy against a private right, it was proposed that a man should suffer ten years' imprisonment and disqualification of all civil rights. On motion of Mr. Clark (Dem., Mo.) the clause providing for disqualification was stricken out.

ALDRICH BILL IS OPPOSED

Western Members Fear Eastern Banks Get Advantage.

Think Bonds Recommended Few and Far Between in the West.

That there is some opposition from Western members to the Aldrich currency bill has been developed. The cause is the fear that the State, county, and municipal bonds made eligible as bank-note issue guarantees are not largely held outside the Eastern banks.

On this assumption, some of the Western members fear if the bill becomes a law, that when the time comes for the issue of such currency as is provided for, the Eastern banks will get the bulk of the \$250,000,000 that will be permitted. Their first argument was that the Eastern banks would get the most anyhow, but when it was pointed out that the secretary of the Treasury will have charge of the distribution of the funds, they took refuge behind the complaint that Western banks have not made as much of a business of investing in the kind of bonds required as have the Eastern ones.

There is some opposition, also, to the provision making railroad bonds good as a guarantee for circulation, and this is a question about which there will be a deal of talk when the hearings of the committee begin on Tuesday.

That this bill will be the only one that will be seriously dealt with by the House is the belief of the leaders. It is known that Senator Aldrich will not be adverse to amendments to sound the measure. He is said to have told some of the members of the committee that he did not expect the bill just as it stands to be perfect, and that there will probably be many additions that will make for a more satisfactory measure. There are a score of bills before the committee now, and these will be gone over carefully, and if there are any good points that should go into the Aldrich bill, they will be put into it.

Concerning the availability of State, county, and municipal bonds, it is said that investigation and compilation has shown that there are issued something like \$1,400,000 such bonds, representing about 4 per cent of the taxed valuations of the basis of the bond issues. This, it is said, is sufficient that there is no reason why there should be any dearth of such bonds when the time comes for all banks to use them as the basis for additional circulation.

MAY GET BOULEVARD.

Carlin Gets Busy on Driveway to Mount Vernon Next.

Representative Carlin, from Alexandria, will urge early and favorable action on his bill in the House, providing for a memorial bridge from Washington to Arlington. This is the same bill that has been favorably acted upon in the Senate, and Mr. Carlin believes that it will go through the House this session.

It provides for an immediate appropriation

of \$50,000 for the preliminary surveys and other work.

"The construction of that bridge will not only mean the connection of the North and South, but will also mean the beginning of a boulevard to Mount Vernon," said Mr. Carlin yesterday. "The inhabitants along the line all the way to Mount Vernon are anxious for such a boulevard, and if this bridge is put through, there is a great chance that the dream of such a driveway to the home of the first President, the Mecca of all America, will become a reality within the lifetime of the present generation."

NEWLANDS NOT CANDIDATE.

Nevadan Declines to Enter the Race for Presidency.

Senator Newlands, of Nevada, is the victim of inept boom for the Presidential nomination on the Democratic ticket. A story was published in the Salt Lake Republican, under date from Reno, Nev., to the effect that the Senator had decided to be a candidate, and that a movement toward that end had been started by his friends in that State. Mr. Newlands, however, declares that he is not in the race, but believes the time has come when Mr. Bryan can be elected.

"It is gratifying, of course," he said,

"to be mentioned for that place by the newspaper, but I have no illusions on the subject and I further think the country very unprepared to accept a President from a far Western State."

Two-thirds of the Democrats are for Bryan, and I think he would make a great President. If he had been elected in 1906, we would not now have on our hands the present struggle to wrest privileges obtained under the Republican rule."

SCHOOL INQUIRY SOON.

Investigation Will Probably Continue a Long Time.

Senator Burkett said yesterday that he would call a meeting of the subcommittee appointed by Senator Gallinger to investigate the local public schools, and that the investigation probably would be long.

Dr. Chancellor and the members of the school board will be among the witnesses

called. It is unlikely that a decision will be reached in the matter very shortly, as the inquiry will be thorough, and is likely to consume much time. Senator Burkett, however, hopes that it will be possible to conclude it before the end of the present session of Congress.

To Extend Nineteenth Street.

Representative Smith, of Michigan, chairman of the House District Committee, has introduced in the House the bill to extend Nineteenth street northwest, from Belmont road to Blinn street, with a uniform width of fifty feet, which was offered in the Senate by Senator Gallinger. The bill was prepared by the Commissioners.

DEMAND FOR MONEY

Departments of Government Send in Estimates.

ARMY AND NAVY EXPENSIVE

Reports indicate Both Branches Are Rapidly Carrying Out Warlike Plans at Home and on Island Possessions—Appropriation for Hospital Ship is Asked For.

That the House Committee on Appropriations will stand by the line officers in the navy was the belief expressed yesterday by a member of that committee, in discussing the recommendations for urgency deficiency appropriations, forwarded by the Secretary of the Treasury, and including an item for \$25,520 to put the United States hospital ship Relief in commission.

According to the report, that much money will be needed to equip and operate the ship, of which Dr. Stokes is to have command, from February 1 to July 1. Whether or not the member of the committee meant to say that no such bill would be reported by the committee, or that no such item would be included within the bill that is reported, the member of the committee would not say.

Referring to the unprecedented action of the Secretary of the Treasury in asking, under the head of urgency deficiency appropriations, increases, promotions, and new positions in his department, this same member said:

"Probably 10 per cent of those recommendations will be acted upon. The others will not be included."

The estimates of the several governmental departments of the amount that will be needed to carry on the business of the government between now and the beginning of the next fiscal year amount to \$7,765,728.15, and for the postal service, payable out of the postal revenues, \$1,580,851.91.

Want Salaries Increased.

Increases in salaries for 232 employees in the Treasury Department are asked for, and 126 new positions are created. Such a recommendation is a departure from custom, and the members of the appropriations committee were generally loath to talk about it. Concerning the request from the Navy Department for the money to put the Relief into commission, there was a general belief that the House would get a chance to express itself by ballot on the Brownson-Rixey controversy, in which the President has sided with the Surgeon General of the Navy.

As bearing on the prohibition question,

it is interesting to note that the recommendation is made for an increase from twenty-eight to forty special revenue agents, for whom, with the fees and expenses of gaugers, salaries, and expenses of storekeepers and storekeeper-gaugers, and for miscellaneous expenses, the sum of \$150,000 is asked. The report says that during the past year but twenty-eight special agents have been employed, but that the law permits forty, and there is a probability that the interests of the service will require the employment of the full number authorized by law."

Much for District.

For the District of Columbia, the total of \$28,399.97 is asked. Included in this amount is a request for \$42,000 "for furnishing an equipping, complete in every detail, the new municipal building; for repairing and renewing the old furniture, and cost of removal to new building."

It is estimated that the expense of the new

building will be something like \$12,500. For completing the grading and paving of the approaches to the new Anacostia bridge, \$25,000 is asked, and the recommendation made that the time for completion be extended to January 1, 1909.

For additional temporary services, maintenance and repairs to the new bathing beach, \$1,300 is asked, but no notice is made of any requirement for a new suit of clothes for Commissioner Henry L. West, who took an unpremeditated plunge into the water at the beach last summer. For the schools \$1,000 is asked, and \$2,324.47 is asked for a site for a municipal almshouse and burial place.

Service Branches Busy.

In the estimates for the War and Navy departments, there are numerous items that indicate that these departments are busy, not only in getting fortifications into ship-shape condition in the event of trouble. For fire control in Manila and Subic Bay, \$100,000 is asked for, and an additional \$10,000 is estimated for the same purpose in other insular possessions. Fire control in this instance means the necessary work to connect mines electrically with some central point from which the mines and guns can be fired by pushing a button.

For regular supplies, \$1,285,288.05 is asked for. Incidental expenses amount to \$24,240.79, made necessary by the occupation of Cuba by the army of pacification, and recruiting.

For coal and transportation, the Navy Department asks for an immediate \$1,000,000. This is made necessary by the recent movement of the fleet, and is but the first of a great expense that will be incurred by that movement.

WOULD PROTECT PACIFIC.

Kahn Thinks Fortifications Better Than Pensions.

To prevent any foreign enemy from using Hawaii or the coast of Southeastern Alaska as a naval or military base, or as a place for landing troops in time of war, Representative Kahn, of California, will make an effort at this session to secure appropriations to fortify Pearl Harbor, in the Hawaiian Islands, and at least one point in Alaska.

Accompanied by Representative Hayes, Mr. Kahn called on the President yesterday to discuss this and other matters of fortifications on the Pacific Coast. The President told him that he hoped they would use every effort to secure large appropriations for Pacific Coast defenses, and he is urging other members of Congress to do so.

"I believe," said Mr. Kahn, "in spending

money on fortifications before hostilities begin, instead of paying it out afterward in the form of pensions."

WANTS CHEAPER FUNERALS.

Member of Congress Renches Climax in Economy.

The wave of economy which has struck the members of Congress this session reached its climax yesterday when a move was made to cut down on the frills of their own funerals, should there be any.

Representative Hughes (Rep., Va.) introduced a bill to limit the expenditure for the expenses of the funeral of a member of the House or of a Senator to \$1,000. It is estimated that in some cases \$25,000 would be spent by the Federal and the State governments as the result of the death of a Representative or Senator. Of this the Federal government has been paying the bulk.

YESTERDAY IN CONGRESS.

HOUSE.

The labor union debate occupied the attention

of the House yesterday.

In Committee of the Whole the bill rewording the penal statutes was under consideration, and Mr. Hughes (Dem., N. J.) and Mr. Smith (Dem., Mo.), sought to amend a section relating to conspiracy by exempting men upon a strike therefrom.

It was vigorously antagonized by Mr. Shirley (Dem., Ky.), who, conceding to labor all its rights, declared that the time had not yet come in this country for granting special privileges to a special class. The motion failed, as did also a motion offered by Mr. De Armond (Dem., Mo.) to make crimes committed pursuant to conspiracy punishable with the penalties provided by the laws of the State in which the crimes were committed. But slight progress was made with the measure.

The bill relating to the correspondence and papers in the case of the resignation of Rear Admiral Brownson as chief of the Bureau of Navigation and the appointment of Medical Director Stokes to the command of the hospital ship Relief was passed. Also a resolution extending the time within which the State of Missouri may file its claim for money advanced at the outbreak of the Spanish war.

SENATE.

The Senate was not in session.

SENATOR FOSTER GO TO-DAY

Louisiana Statesman Has Seen Many Changes in His State.

Elected Member of "The John McEnery Legislature," but Did Not Take Seat—Led Lottery Fight.

Senator Murphy J. Foster, of Louisiana, celebrates his fifty-ninth birthday anniversary to-day. It goes without saying that the Senator is a Democrat. He is a native of Louisiana, having been born at Franklin. After graduating from Washington and Lee University, Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., and Tulane University, New Orleans, he was elected member of "The John McEnery legislature," but owing to the fact that this government was never recognized, and that the Kellogg government was, he did not take his seat.

In 1878 Senator Foster was elected a member of the senate of Louisiana under the constitution of that year, and was returned for three consecutive terms of four years each. He was elected president pro tempore of the senate in 1883-90, and led the anti-lottery fight in the legislature in 1890, and in 1892 he was nominated by the anti-lottery convention as candidate for governor. He was elected to the office and succeeded himself. At the end of eight years in the governor's chair he was unanimously elected to the United States Senate to succeed Hon. Donelson Caffery, and took his seat on March 4, 1901.

When the Democratic party of Louisiana adopted the plan of selecting non-resident members for State offices by a general election he requested that the United States Senatorship be included in the primary, and announced his candidacy to succeed himself. He received 4,390 votes, as against 26,122 cast for ex-United States Senator B. F. Jones. He was re-elected at the expiration of his term last March. Senator Foster makes his home at the Cochran.

SEEKS TO LIMIT TERM.

Lassiter Thinks President Should Serve but Four Years.

Representative Lassiter, of Virginia, introduced yesterday a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States in relation to the term of service of the President.

The resolution is similar in terms to one introduced by Senator Culloin, of Illinois, on December 21, except that it

practically every piece of work done in

the most of the department of the Government Printing Office comes under this classification of "jacket." The "jackets" are, in fact, just what the term signifies, the coat of paper which covers the piece of work to be done. On each jacket there is an array of statistics which would keep the head of an ordinary man buzzing. Still, each man must mark them correctly or be suspended.

So far as the regulation for indicating the time devoted to any one operation on any jacket is concerned, it is possible that in theory it is better than the old ideas which were in force when Public Printer Stillings was in office.

But there are some points about this

seemingly harsh order which the employees say do not appear so just if the surface is more than scratched. Suppose, for instance, that there is a great rush of work on in the composing and room. The work must get out, as much work done at the Government Printing Office must.

Copy Must Be Cut Up.

Each page of copy is properly hashed into a dozen pieces, and these separate pieces are given to the men who set it up. As there is much to be done, it is a probable fact that each man who is working on such a rush night will receive scores and scores of such pieces. Each compositor or man working on this sort of copy will be compelled to stop in this rush night to mark his jacket numbers correctly, and also to mark the time when he commenced a job and when he finished it.

Vice President Raynor, of the Audit System, said to a reporter for The Washington Herald some time since that it would not take more than two seconds for a man to mark his time correctly. A careful look at one of these slips is more than enough to show that a man, and especially a man who is in fear of his position, will take considerably more than two seconds in marking his time, and considering more than that amount in marking his jacket numbers.

Must Lose Time in Marking.

Men who are in a position to know say that each man will lose on an average each day in marking up his time and his jacket numbers—for which he is bound to take time, to save his position—from a half hour to an hour. If the smaller average amount is taken and an estimate made of the number of employees affected, placed at 2,000, there are 1,000 hours of day lost to the government.

One thousand hours estimated at 59

pents an hour means \$50 a day lost in marking these time slips and these jacket numbers.

Surely, that a strange cost and audit

system.

Is this a part of Mr. Stillings' plans for

saving money?

FAVOR LOWER GAS RATE.

Commissioners Forward Report on Bill to Congress.

That there should be cheaper gas in the District is the belief of the Commissioners, who have forwarded such a report to Congress, as the result of the investigation of the Gas Commission.

This bill, which was introduced in the House on December 3, was sent to the Commissioners for report. It provides that the price of gas shall be fixed at 75 cents. Because of similar hearings last winter, the Commissioners decided there would be no further investigations at this time, and sent the bill back with the recommendation that the price of gas be lowered. They did not, however, fix a price, for the reason that they do not know just what it should be.

The report of the Commissioners is as follows:

"That they are in favor of a reduction in the price of gas to whatever figure will yield a reasonable profit to the gas companies, as they have heretofore recommended to Congress. But, as they have also stated to Congress, they have not the authority or the means at present to determine what that price should be. They have recommended in their annual report that they shall be given the necessary authority and means to properly supervise the operations of all the public utility corporations in the District of Columbia, including the gaslight companies. If Congress will grant this authority and means, they will be able, with the advice of disinterested experts employed by them for the purpose of investigation, to arrive at the amount of reduction that ought to be made in the price of gas."

Her Noble Record.

From Harper's Bazar.

"Did your last cook turn out well?"

"Oh, finely! We were with her only one day, but she baked enough things to last a week."

MORE C.P.O. FRICTION

Employees Write Letters of Mr. Stillings' Methods.

EVILS NOT ALL REMEDIED

Compositors Must Lose Time in Marking "Jacket Slips," and Estimate Is Made that Government Loses \$500 a Day by Plan—Believed Not to Be Money-saving Device.

Public Printer Charles A. Stillings, it has been shown, on numerous instances signed contracts for material other than paper, with The Audit System, which was put in the Government Printing Office to install, instruct in, &c., "a cost audit and inventory system."

Since the articles concerning The Audit System and the Public Printer have been printed many letters from employees have been received by The Washington Herald. In most of these the belief is expressed that Public Printer Charles A. Stillings has not increased the efficiency of his office by some of his sweeping orders.

It must be admitted that Mr. Stillings went into the Government Printing Office to remedy alleged evils of administration. There is little doubt among the more conservative class of the employees that Mr. Stillings has done this, but many aver that in so doing he has been too strict.

Seeking for "Lost Motion."

In seeking for what has been termed "lost motion," Mr. Stillings—to carry the figure further—has tightened the bearings of his big plant until there is a tightness and added quantity of friction which is becoming greater all the time.

General order No. 11, series 1907, is held by many of the employees to be the most stringent that the Public Printer has yet issued.

The order is here given:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

Office of the Public Printer, Washington, D. C.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 11, SERIES 1907.

Marking Time Slips.

Employees who plan to mark their time slips on their daily time slips or who fail to indicate clearly upon the same the actual time devoted to any one operation on any jacket, shall be immediately suspended from duty, and upon sustained evidence will be dismissed from the service for inefficiency.

CHAS. A. STILLINGS, Public Printer.

December 23, 1907.

Men Must Be Perfect.

It is obvious after a perfunctory reading of this order that a man who intends to work in the Government Printing Office must be prepared to be almost perfect or to ultimately lose his job. The order undoubtedly means that one error in marking time slips with the wrong jacket number means suspension.

Practically every piece of work done in the most of the department of the Government Printing Office comes under this classification of "jacket." The "jackets" are, in fact, just what the term signifies, the coat of paper which covers the piece of work to be done. On each jacket there is an array of statistics which would keep the head of an ordinary man buzzing. Still, each man must mark them correctly or be suspended.

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